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ABSTRACT

Not intended to replace traditional style and grammar manuals, this manual digs into questions that the "Chicago Manual of Style," the "AP Guide," and "Strunk and White" do not even imagine--it aims to give the user a feel for the new language that is evolving in the digital age. The manual might be considered an experiment in nonlinear, networked editing. It is the result of discussion among "Wired's" editors which are guided by actual usage, not rules. Some of the questions the manual answers are: "When does jargon end and vernacular begin?"; "Where's the line between neologism and hype?"; "What's the language of the global village?"; "How can writers keep pace with technology without getting bogged down in empty acronyms?"; and "How can writers write about machines without losing a sense of humanity and poetry?" The entries in the manual reflect a fascination with science and technology and the lexicons evolving out of those worlds. Not all entries will be useful to those writing for a different audience, but the underlying principles still apply no matter what community the user is writing for. The manual concludes with a chapter on acronyms used online and the most frequently asked questions about e-mail style. (NKA)

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